

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Altenburg Airfield

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 3 September 1954

25X1

REFERENCES                     PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                      This is UNEVALUATED                     

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Altenburg airfield between 27 July and 12 August 1954:
- 27 July. Throughout the day, no air activity was observed. The ceiling was about 8/10 overcast. Between 2200 and 2300 there was air activity by aircraft, apparently multi-engine planes, as was inferred from the noise of the engines. The aircraft landed at the field. A take-off was heard about 0200.
- 28 July. A joined exercise by army troops and aircraft was started in the early morning. The training area was located south of the Muensa-Neuenmoerbitz road, between triangulation points 186.8 and 210.5. The area was bordered by the Klaus-Lohma-Buscha-Langenleuba line to the south. At about 0345, infantry, artillery, and engineer units were observed in the forest. A bridge across the Wyhra River between Alt Moerbitz and Schoembach had been built by the engineers. About 0530, the training area was declared off limits to civilian traffic. Between 0445 and 0600, a telephone construction crew laid a cable which was partially overhead and partially buried and extended from the direction of the airfield along the Muensa-Neuenmoerbitz road to as far as the eastern end of Leina Forest. At 0600, intensive air activity was started by MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks. At first, a flight of three aircraft was aloft of which two planes had taken off in an elements and the third one individually. The interval between the flying aircraft was 50 to 60 meters with the distance between them slightly larger. As could be seen from the wooded area, the formation did not conduct low-level attacks but landed after about 10 minutes. Subsequently, formations of MiG-15s continuously took off and flew in javelins of about nine aircraft each. The aircraft made low-level attacks at ground targets while there was heavy firing probably with AA guns and infantry weapons. Some soldiers also fired with carbines at the aircraft. At the end of the exercise, three MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s crossed over the training area between 1115 and 1130 and subsequently landed at the field. A local resident who could observe the landing field during the air activity stated that the exercise involved 42 to 45 aircraft.
- 29 and 30 July. No air activity was observed. The possibilities of observation were limited.
- 31 July. At 1700, a Po-2 took off. No additional air activity was observed.
- 1 August. There was no air activity throughout the day and at night although the weather was favorable.

25X1

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25X1

- 2 -

2 August. About 1730, several multi-engine aircraft took off and disappeared from view. There were no clouds. The aircraft did not return to the field throughout the day.

5 August. Between 0600 and 0900, MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s made local flights of 4 to 6 minutes duration. The interval between the individual take-offs was 5 to 6 minutes. At the same time, four Po-2s made local flights.

6 August. Between 0700 and 0930, local flying was practiced by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s and three Po-2s.

7 to 12 August. No air activity was observed except on the afternoon of 9 August, when a Po-2 was aloft for a short time. The weather usually was very cloudy.

2. During one night between 27 and 29 July, night flying was practiced while three searchlights were in operation. The aircraft flew in the beams of the searchlights. On 7 August, 16 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were counted at the field including four alert aircraft without tarpaulins at the northern end of the runway. There was no air activity between 1300 and 1900. 1

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3. An AA gun emplacement occupied by five AA guns estimated at 37-mm was observed in the southeastern corner of the field. Eight EM tents were seen nearby. The pertaining soldiers were engaged in callisthenics. 2 Truck moved to the airfield.

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1. Comment. Altenburg airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments which participated in an army exercise on 28 July 1954. During the night of 27 July, an army unit was probably flown to Altenburg in transport aircraft. The army units involved in the exercise have not been determined. The number of MiG-15s observed by source 2 on 7 August is considerably lower than the assumed aircraft strength of the two regiments consisting of 45 to 50 aircraft.

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2. Comment. According to available information, an AA gun emplacement was located north of the runway.

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